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EMBRACE THE DARKNESS.
DISAPPEAR INTO THE COLD.
THE ONLY RESPITE FROM THE SURFACE WORLD, WHICH CONSUMES AND EMBROILS ALL IT TOUCHES.
ODD, ISN'T IT? THAT IN ORDER TO CONTEMPLATE LIFE, ONE MUST GO WHERE THERE ISN'T ANY?
I WONDER...
...IS THIS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE DEAD?
IF SO, HOW GLORIOUS.
WOULD THAT I COULD STAY HERE, FOREVER OBLIVIOUS TO THE PAIN AND STRIFE ABOVE.
CHTHUNNK!
THEY'VE FOUND ME!

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EVERYTHING EATS, EVERYTHING DIES!

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WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
IT'S HIS HEART!
MUH TICKER PILLS! I NEED MUH TICKER PILLS!
Y'ALL GAVE ME A FIT AND A START, SWAMPUH!
I AM SORRY, GUILLAUME. I THOUGHT I HAD BEEN... I THOUGHT YOU WERE...
TECHNICALLY, I AM A DOCTOR.
SHOULD WE GET A DOCTOR?
AW, MONKEY MEAT! AH'M FINE.
IT'S GETTIN' LATE, THOUGH. WE DON' WANNA BE OUT HERE AFTUH DARK. WEIRD THINGS BEEN HAPPENIN' ON THE BAYOU LATELY.
WELL...
...YUH MIGHT AS WELL JOIN US FOR SUPPER, SWAMPUH.
VROOOO
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APOLOGIES IN ADVANCE, SWAMPUH.
EATING THIS CORNY ON THE COB IN FRONTA YA...MUST BE LIKE'N IF WE HAD TO WATCH YOU DEVOUR A CHILD.
I SUPPOSE THAT THERE'S THE ONE IMMUTABLE RULE OF LIFE.
EVERYTHING EATS AND EVERY-THING DIES.
I DON'T MIND. EVERYTHING IS FOOD FOR SOME-THING ELSE.
I MYSELF AM FERTILIZED BY HUMAN CORPSES ALL THE TIME.
EVERYTHING ELSE IS UP TO US.

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RO-BAIR? YUH LATE! YA KNOW IT AIN'T SAFE TO BE OUT THERE AFTUH DARK!
SORRY, PEEPAW. NEW JOB'S GOT ME WORKIN' LONG HOURS.
HE HAD A HEART EPISODE TODAY, ROBERT. ALMOST DIED!
ARE YOU SURE HE WASN'T FAKING IT?!
NO. NOT THIS TIME!
SO WHAT CAUSED IT?!
I SHOULD LEAVE...
NONSENSE!
SWAMPUH IS A FRIEND AND A GUEST.
LOOK, KIDS. I'M GONNA DIE SOME DAY AND THERE AIN'T SLAP Y'ALL CAN DO ABOUT IT.
ALL RIGHT, PEEPAW.
BUT LISSEN TO ME, NOW.
WHEN I DO GO, I DON' WANT Y'ALL GETTIN' SAD AND MOPEY. WE HAVE A GOOD LIFE HERE. SO I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES AND HAVE ONE LAST BIG LAUGH WITH ME. THEN BURY ME FOREVER. AWRIGHT?
ALL RIGHT.

OUR SECURITY CAN'T TOUCH HIM. THE PRIESTESS FAILED TO CAPTURE HIM.
IT'S OVER. WE NEED TO CUT BAIT AND MOVE ON, MR. SUNDERLAND.
NOT MUCH OF A FISHERMAN, MYSELF. MORE OF A HUNTER. AND MAYBE THAT'S OUR PROBLEM.

WE'VE BEEN SITTING IN OUR BOAT, HAVING A FEW BEERS, JUST WAITING FOR HIM TO COME TO US. WHEN WHAT WE NEED IS TO FIND WHERE THIS THING IS HIDING AND SMOKE IT OUT.
TED. RICH. YOU'RE FIRED. SALLY?
MR. SUNDERLAND, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY--
YES, SIR?

I'M PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE. EVERYTHING IN THIS LAB IS YOURS. TAKE ANYTHING YOU NEED. FIND THE SWAMP THING AT ALL COSTS.
YES, SIR.
I'D DECLARED WAR ON SUNDERLAND. NOW...

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...TO CATCH A MONSTER, THEY HAVE CREATED MONSTERS.

I HAD HOPED THAT, BY DISAPPEARING MYSELF, THEY TOO MIGHT VANISH.
BUT MONSTERS, ONCE SUMMONED, NEVER DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY.
AND THE NIGHT, ONCE IT BECOMES THE DOMAIN OF TERRORS, NEVER FEELS SAFE AGAIN.
SWAMP MAN!
SO WE LOCK OURSELVES IN OUR HOMES...IN A DARKNESS OF OUR OWN CREATION... AND PRETEND THE MONSTERS DO NOT EXIST.
UNTIL THEY FIND US.
ARE YOU OUT HERE?! PLEASE!
HENRIETTE! WHAT IS IT?
IT'S PEEPAW... HE'S NOT AT HOME.
HE'S GONE MISSING!
AND EVENTUALLY, THEY FIND US ALL.
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YOU TWO GO HOME. IT'S NOT SAFE OUT HERE AT NIGHT.
I'LL FIND GUILLAUME.
IF IT'S NOT SAFE FOR *US*, THEN IT'S NOT SAFE FOR *HIM*.
WE'LL LOOK FOR HIM *TOGETHER*.
VROOOO...
SO MANY LITTLE ISLANDS IN THE BAYOU.
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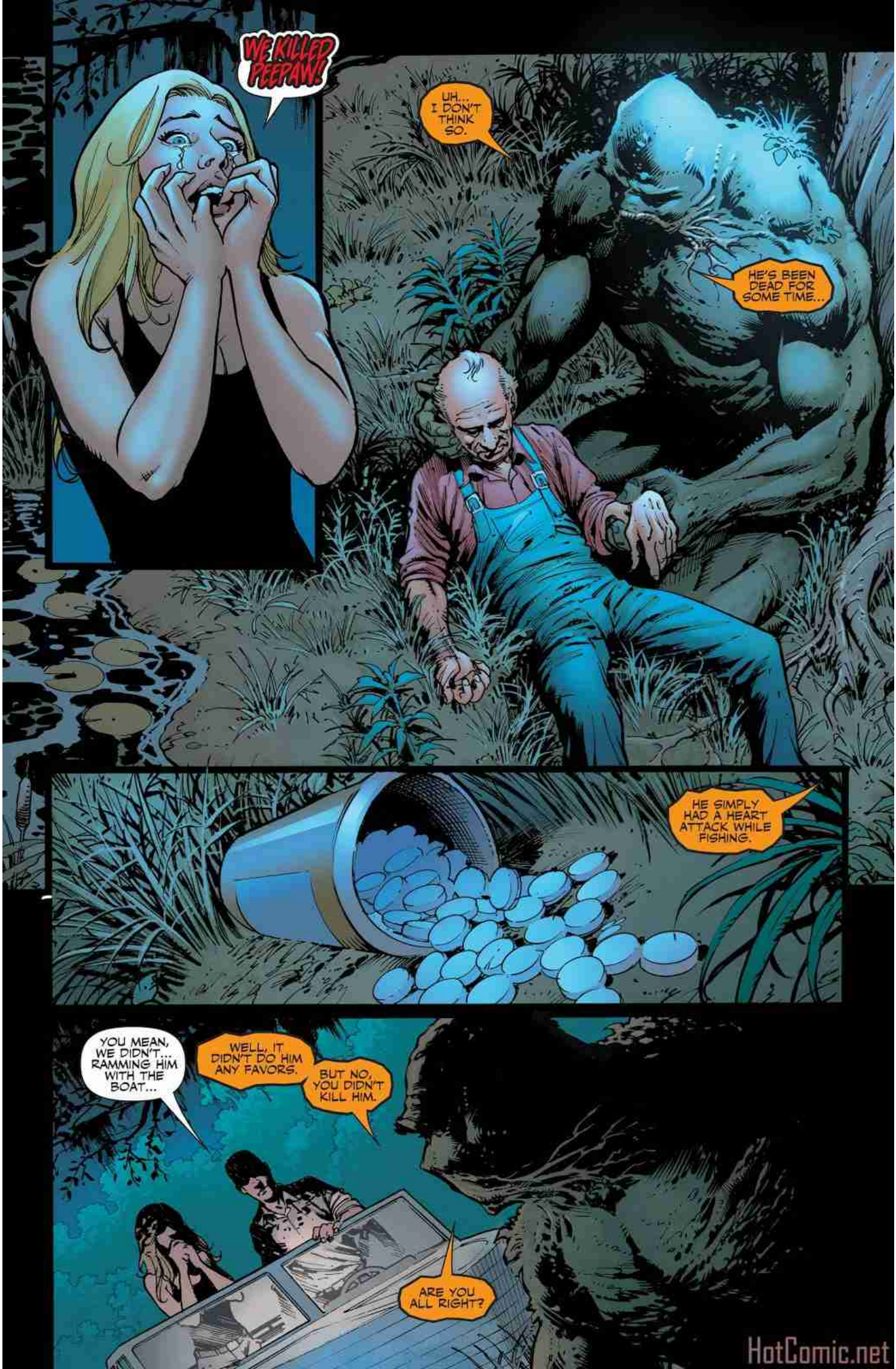
WE KILLED PEEPAW!
UH... I DON'T THINK SO.
HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR SOME TIME...
HE SIMPLY HAD A HEART ATTACK WHILE FISHING.
YOU MEAN, WE DIDN'T... RAMMING HIM WITH THE BOAT...
WELL, IT DIDN'T DO HIM ANY FAVORS.
BUT NO, YOU DIDN'T KILL HIM.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
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HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!
NOT THE REACTION I WAS EXPECTING...
OH, THAT IS SO *HIM*, ISN'T IT?
I'M SORRY, SWAMPUH. BUT YOU DIDN'T KNOW HIM THE WAY WE DID.
IF HE COULD HAVE CHOSEN HOW TO DIE, *THIS* WOULD HAVE BEEN *IT*. GIVING US A *SCARE* AND A *LAUGH*.
THAT'S WHAT LIFE *WAS* TO HIM. A BIT OF A SCARE AND A BIT OF A LAUGH.
I REALLY WILL *MISS* HIM, THOUGH.
GOOD ONE, PEEPAW!
LET'S GET YOU ALL HOME.
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WE COMMEND GUILLAUME FLAUBERT TO THE COLD AND DARK...
...KNOWING HE SHALL RISE AGAIN ON JUDGMENT DAY.
I NEED TO MAKE A PHONE CALL.
THE COLD AND THE DARK AWAIT US ALL. IN THE MEANTIME, WE CANNOT HIDE FROM THE WORLD, NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE FEAR IT.
BECAUSE THE WORLD WILL ALWAYS FIND US.
SUNDERLAND SECURITY
THAT'S RIGHT. I KNOW WHERE THE SWAMP THING HAS BEEN HIDING...
...I CAN SHOW YOU WHERE.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A PROMOTION, ROBERT?
THE WORLD WITH ALL ITS PAIN AND STRIFE MAY KILL US...

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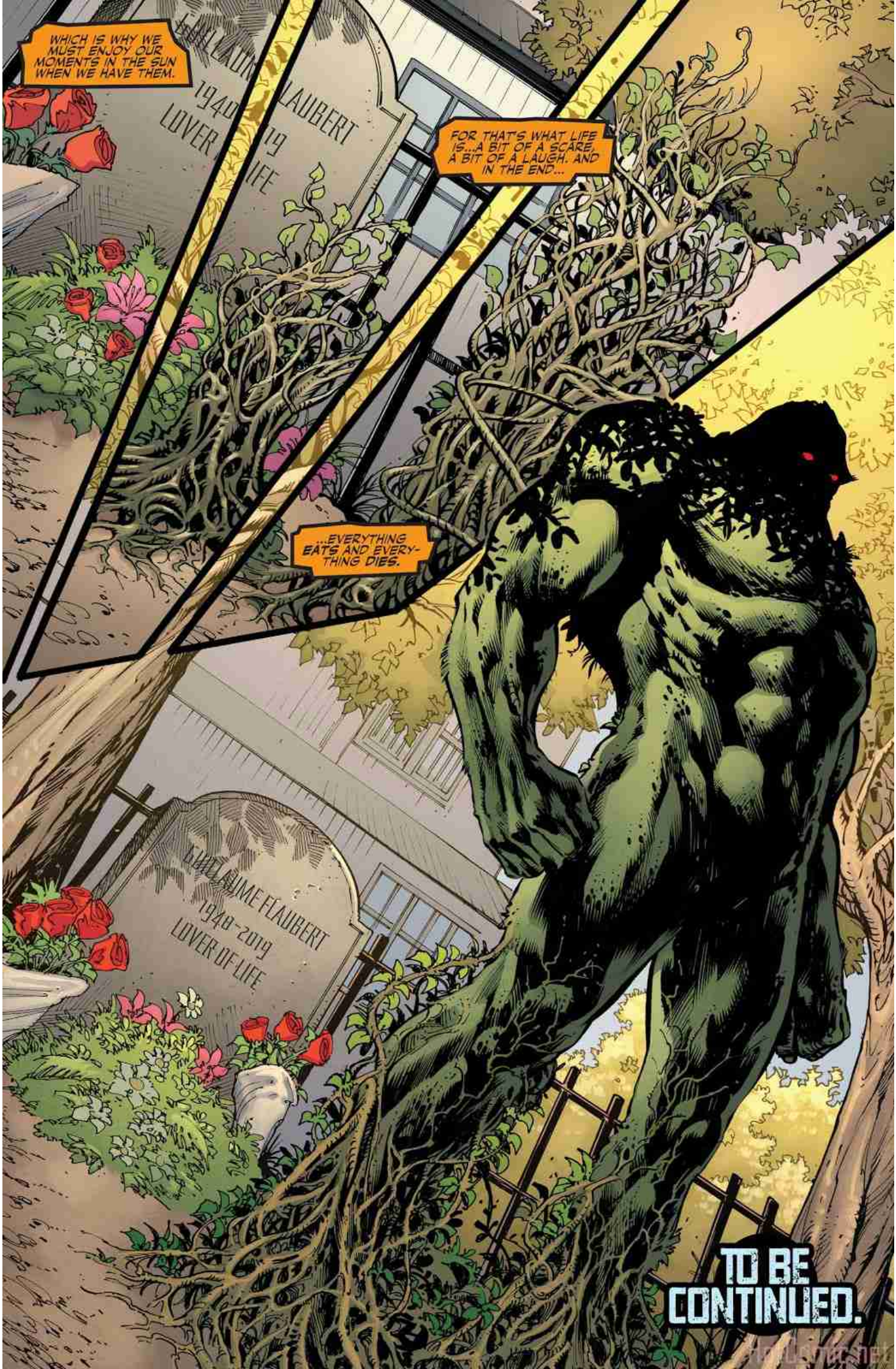
WHICH IS WHY WE MUST ENJOY OUR MOMENTS IN THE SUN WHEN WE HAVE THEM.
FLAUBERT
19
LIFE
FOR THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS...A BIT OF A SCARE, A BIT OF A LAUGH. AND IN THE END...
...EVERYTHING EATS AND EVERY-THING DIES.
GUILLAUME FLAUBERT
1940-2019
LOVER OF LIFE
TO BE CONTINUED.